From: <u>Joan White</u>

To: Public Hearing;

CC:

**Subject:** Opposition to the Wal-Mart bank

**Date:** Thursday, April 06, 2006 6:04:20 PM

**Attachments:** 

## Dear Mr. Gruenberg:

Let me express my concern about Wal-Mart's application for a bank charter. In the last few years, almost without anyone's noticing, Wal-Mart has ballooned in size and therefore influence in the world of commerce. It is now the world's largest corporation with the resources to sway politicians and swallow competition. Reports about Wal-Mart over the last few years have highlighted a company that often treats its employees unfairly and squeezes its suppliers for ever lower prices. Traditionally, bankers have had among the best reputations in the business community, which should be the case since they hold the keys to a community's capital. I am grateful to have the opportunity to still bank with an institution owned and operated by a local family. I would like to continue to be able to do so. I encourage you and the other directors to be present at the hearing on Wal-Mart's application and to deny it based on the harmful effect it would have on locally owned banks.